

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 20-23 and 49 without prejudice, and amend claims 13, 19 and 43.

1-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having four side walls that define a perimeter, the four side walls connected to each other to form an elongated configuration, the four side walls comprising a first side wall, a second side wall, a third side wall and a fourth side wall, with the first and third side walls being opposite and parallel to each other, and with the second and fourth side walls being opposite to each other;

wherein each side wall has a top edge, with the top edges of the side walls defining an open top for the shell;

a frame that is secured to the top edges of the side walls, the frame defining a perimeter;

wherein the first and third side walls are straight, and are longer than the second and fourth side walls;

wherein the fourth side wall is a straight rear wall and the second side wall is curved as it extends from the first side wall to the third side wall;

a first elongated lid portion having a side edge hingedly coupled to the frame at a first hinge connection above the top edge of the first side wall, such that the first elongated lid portion and the first hinge connection are within the perimeter of the frame;

a second elongated lid portion having a side edge hingedly coupled to the frame at a second hinge connection above the top edge of the third side wall, such that the second elongated lid portion and the second hinge connection are within the perimeter of the frame; and

wherein the frame has an upper edge that has the same perimeter as the shell.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the frame is made from a different material as the lid portions.

15. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the frame is made of plastic.

16. (Original) The assembly of claim 15, wherein the lid portions are made of metal.

17. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the lid portions have inner edges that define a center line for the open top of the shell.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) [[The assembly of claim 13]] A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having four side walls that define a perimeter, the four side walls connected to each other to form an elongated configuration, the four side walls comprising a first side wall, a second side wall, a third side wall and a fourth side wall, with the first and third side walls being opposite and parallel to each other, and with the second and fourth side walls being opposite to each other;

wherein each side wall has a top edge, with the top edges of the side walls defining an open top for the shell;

a frame that is secured to the top edges of the side walls, the frame defining a perimeter, wherein the frame defines a first elongated slot along the top edge of the first side wall within the perimeter of the frame, and a second elongated slot along the top edge of the third side wall within the perimeter of the frame;

wherein the first and third side walls are straight, and are longer than the second and fourth side walls;

a first elongated lid portion having a side edge hingedly coupled to the frame at a first hinge connection above the top edge of the first side wall;

a second elongated lid portion having a side edge hingedly coupled to the frame at a second hinge connection above the top edge of the third side wall; and

wherein the frame has an upper edge that has the same perimeter as the shell;

wherein each lid portion has a sleeve provided along its side edge, with the sleeve of the first lid portion received inside the first elongated slot to hingedly couple the first lid portion to the top edge of the first side wall, and the sleeve of the second lid portion received inside the second elongated slot to hingedly couple the second lid portion to the top edge of the third side wall, such that the first hinge connection comprises the first elongated slot and the sleeve of the first lid portion, and the second hinge connection comprises the second elongated slot and the sleeve of the second lid portion.

20-42. (Canceled).

43. (Currently Amended) A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having a top end, a bottom end and four side walls that are connected to each other to form an elongated configuration, the four side walls comprising a first side wall, a second side wall, a third side wall and a fourth side wall, with the first and third side walls being opposite and parallel to each other, and with the second and fourth side walls being opposite to each other;

wherein each side wall has a top edge, with the top edges of the side walls defining an open top for the shell;

a frame that is secured to the top edges of the side walls, the frame defining a perimeter, wherein the frame defines a first elongated slot along the top edge of the first side wall within the perimeter of the frame, and a second elongated slot along the top edge of the third side wall within the perimeter of the frame;

wherein the first and third side walls are longer than the second and fourth side walls;

a first elongated lid portion having an inner edge, and a side edge hingedly coupled to the frame at a first hinge connection at the top edge of the first side wall;

a second elongated lid portion having an inner edge, and a side edge hingedly coupled to the frame at a second hinge connection at the top edge of the third side wall;

a base attached to the bottom end of the shell;

a toe-kick recess positioned at least partially in the base, the recess having a width that is wide enough to receive a human foot;

wherein the shell and the base are formed of different materials; and

a pedal bar positioned at least partially within the base, at least a portion of the pedal bar extending into the toe-kick recess;

wherein each lid portion has a sleeve provided along its side edge, with the sleeve of the first lid portion received inside the first elongated slot to hingedly couple the first lid portion to the top edge of the first side wall, and the sleeve of the second lid portion received inside the second elongated slot to hingedly couple the second lid portion to the top edge of the third side wall, such that the first hinge connection comprises the first elongated slot and the sleeve of the first lid portion, and the second hinge connection comprises the second elongated slot and the sleeve of the second lid portion.

44. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 43, wherein each of the lid portions have approximately the same size and approximately the same dimensions.

45. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 43, further including:  
an inner liner positioned substantially within the shell;  
wherein a region of minimum thickness of each of the lid portions is substantially less than the minimum distance between the inner liner and the outside surface of the shell.

46. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 43, wherein each of the lid portions are actuated by the pedal bar to move between a substantially closed position in which each of the lid portions is predominantly horizontal, and to an opened position in which each of the lid portions is predominantly vertical.

47. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 43, further including a motion dampening mechanism that decreases the closing speed of the lid portions.

48. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 13, wherein each lid portion has an inner edge, with the inner edges positioned side-by-side when the lid portions cover the open top of the shell.

49. (Canceled).